

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-20 and replace with the following:

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21. (NEW) A method of backing up files of plural client computers to a back up computer having a bulk data storage device for storing files to be backed up of the client computers each of said client computers comprising a data storage device having a client data storage area storing files desired to be backed up to the bulk data storage device

said method comprising:

operating said back up computer so back up data stored in said client data storage areas of each of said plurality of client computers is selectively backed up in the bulk storage device, determining if back-up to the bulk storage device is to be performed for the files desired to be backed up of a particular client computer by performing the following steps at each particular client computer:

- (a) maintaining a list of files of said particular client computer allocated for backup;
- (b) maintaining total size data describing the size of each of said listed files of the particular client computer;
- (c) determining the total file size data describing the total size of said listed files of said particular client computer;
- (d) comparing said total file size data with a predetermined size limit; and
- (e) determining whether to back up said client files or not, depending on said comparison between said total file size data and said predetermined size limit.

22. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said step of determining whether or not to back up said client data comprises:

- comparing said total file size data with a first file size limit;
- if said total file size data exceeds said first file size limit, generating a warning message indicating said first file size limit is exceeded; and
- performing back up of said data files within said file size limit.

23. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step of determining whether or not to back up said client files comprises:

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comparing said total file size data with a second file size limit data;

if said total file size data exceeds said second file size limit, then prohibiting back up of said client files.

24. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said step of determining whether or not to back up said client files comprises:

comparing said total file size data with a second file size limit data;

if said total file size data exceeds said second file size limit, then prohibiting back up of said client files; and

generating a warning message that said second file size limit is exceeded.

25. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 21 comprising the process of:

maintaining a quota list, listing a plurality of files stored in a backed up region of said client computer, wherein for each said file there are stored size data describing the size of said file.

26. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 25 further comprising the step of:

for the particular client computer, summing the total of all said file sizes to obtain total file size data of files stored in the back up storage area of said client computer.

27. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 25 further comprising the process of:

for the particular client computer, storing a difference list listing differences between files backed up during a previous back up process and files currently stored in the back up data storage area of said client computer.

28. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the size of each file is determined by comparing a list of current files of the particular client computer desired to be backed-up with a list of files desired to be backed-up for the particular client computer during the immediately previous back-up, altering list for each changed file desired to be backed up for the particular

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client computer, for each deleted file for the particular client computer removing the file from the list, for each added file for the particular client computer adding the file to the list.

29. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the size of the desired file to be backed-up to the back up computer for the particular client computer is determined by using delta back-up procedures.

30. (NEW) A method of operating a back up computer, said back up computer comprising:
a data storage device for storing backup files of plural client computers;
said method comprising steps of
selectively transmitting backup files of the client computer to the backup data storage device;

receiving at the backup computer total file size data for and from each of the client computers, each said total file size data representing the total file size at said client computer of files which the client computer desires to be backed up to said back up computer; and

for each said client computer, activating the back up computer to respond to the stored total size data so the back up computer determines a file size limit representing a limit of total file size for each said client computer, for which back up of said files is permitted.

31. The method of claim 30 further including transmitting from the backup computer to the client computers the file size limit determined for each client computer.

32. A method of operating a client computer, said client computer comprising:
a data storage device for storing files of the client computer, said data storage device having a back-up data storage area from which files can be sent for backup to a back up computer;

said method comprising the steps of:

storing in said back-up data storage area files desired to be backed-up;

creating a list of files resident in said back-up data storage area;

for each said file on said list, storing size data describing the size of said client file;

summing said plurality of file sizes to obtain a summed file size total; and
comparing said summed file size total with a size quota limit.

33. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein said size quota limit comprises a first size limit; and

said method further comprises the step of warning at said client computer that said first quota limit is exceeded in response to said summed total file size data exceeding said size quota limit.

34. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said size quota limit comprises a second quota limit; and

said method further comprises the step of:

prohibiting back-up of at least one file in said client backed-up data storage area in response to said summed file size data being greater than said second quota limit data.

35. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

comparing a list of current files in said client backed-up data storage area with a previously generated list of files representing the status of files in said back-up client area at a previous time;

identifying files which have changed between said current file list and said previous file list; and

generating a difference list listing said files that have changed between said current file list and said previous file list.

36. (NEW) A client computer comprising:

a data storage device having a data storage area for files which are subject to a back-up process;

an interface device; and

a data processor for managing back-up of files in said backed-up data storage area, said data processor being arranged to (a) send said files to a back up computer via said interface device and (b) receive a first quota limit from an external source, said first quota limit describing

an amount of data storage capacity said client computer is permitted to maintain in said data storage area for files which are subject to a back-up process.

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37. (NEW) The client computer as claimed in claim 36 wherein said data processor is arranged to receive a second quota limit from an external source, said second quota limit describing an amount of data storage capacity which said client computer is permitted to maintain in said data storage area for files which are subject to a back-up process.

38. (NEW) The client computer as claimed in claim 36 wherein said client data processor is arranged to:

- maintain a quota list describing the amount of data allowed to be stored in said data storage area for files which are subject to a back-up process;

- maintain a file list describing one or more files currently stored in said data storage area for files which are subject to a back-up process;

- maintain a previous file list describing a plurality of files previously stored in said data storage area immediately prior to a last back-up operation carried out by data processor for files which are subject to a back-up process; and

- maintain a difference list storing data describing differences between files on said new file list, and files on said previous file list.

39. (NEW) A method of backing-up of data of a client computer on a back-up computer, said method comprising the steps of:

- each time a back-up operation of said client computer is initiated, determining the total size of all files of said client computer to be backed up, and determining whether performance of said back-up would cause a first predetermined quota limit to be exceeded, and if the first limit is exceeded determining if performance of said back-up would cause a second predetermined quota limit to be exceeded;

- if it is determined that performance of said back up would cause said first predetermined quota limit to be exceeded, but said second predetermined quota limit not to be exceeded, then proceeding with said back-up, and generating a warning signal warning that said first predetermined quota limit is exceeded;

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if performance of said back-up would exceed said second predetermined quota limit, then prohibiting said back-up, and generating a warning signal that said second predetermined quota limit would be exceeded; and performing the back-up if the first limit is not exceeded.

40. (NEW) A method of operating a client computer, said client computer comprising:
a data storage device for storing client files, said data storage device having a back-up data storage area from which files can be sent to a back-up computer for back-up;
said method comprising the steps of:
storing files desired to be backed up to the back-up computer in the back-up data storage area;
maintaining a quota list, said quota list comprising a list of files in said back-up data storage area which were backed up during a previous back-up operation;
backing up to the back-up computer said files stored in said back up data storage area;
in response to said backing up operation, modifying said quota list to list the actually backed up files.

41. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising the steps of:
producing a modified quota list comprising a list of files currently in said backed up data storage area; and
determining from said modified quota list, whether performance of a back up operation is within a quota limit.

42. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 41, wherein said step of producing the modified quota list comprises:
generating a difference list, said difference list listing details of files which have differences between the current content of said backed up data storage area and said quota list.

43. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein the size of the desired file to be backed-up to the back up computer for the particular client computer is determined by using delta back-up procedures.

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44. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the size of the desired file to be backed-up to the back up computer for the particular client computer is determined by using delta back-up procedures.

45. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 39 wherein the size of the desired file to be backed-up to the back up computer for the particular client computer is determined by using delta back-up procedures.

46. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 40 wherein the size of the desired file to be backed-up to the back up computer for the particular client computer is determined by using delta back-up procedures.

47. (NEW) The computer of claim 36 wherein the data processor is arranged to determine the size of the desired file to be backed-up to the back up computer.
